

July 24, 1964

Parke, Davis & Company
Detroit, Michigan

Attention: Dr. Alexander M. Moore

Dear Dr. Moore:

I note your paper in the J.A.C.S. for August 1958 on derivatives of DON.

We are most interested in identifying toxogenic substrates that are highly inhibitory to certain bacteria, especially Bacillus subtilis, by virtue of their enzymatic transformation or hydrolysis to the actual antibacterial agents. These substrates could be most advantageous in genetics studies by leading to the easy selection of mutants deficient in the hydrolytic or transforming enzyme. Actually, there are not so many substances that are so highly antibacterial that they would lend themselves to the formation of derivatives of this kind, but it occurred to me that DON might fall into this category. I note that your paper on the preparation of DON refers to the methyl ester as an intermediate, and I was confident that your laboratories had also prepared other derivatives possibly for biological testing. I would be most grateful to you for any information that might be helpful in the identification of appropriate substrates for the purpose just mentioned. In the case of any material that you may already have prepared and for which you do not at the present time have more explicit use, I would also be grateful for the opportunity to test samples in our system. These tests would consist entirely of an examination of the antibacterial properties of the substrates against various strains in our collection of B. subtilis genotypes, and would in no case involve the use of experimental animals or human beings in any fashion.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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MOORE